



Standard Specification for Industrial Burner Fuels from Used Lubricating Oils¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers four grades of fuel oil made in whole or in part with hydrocarbon-based used or reprocessed lubricating oil or functional fluids, such as preservative and hydraulic fluids. The four grades of fuel are intended for use in various types of fuel-oil-burning industrial equipment under various climatic and operating conditions. These fuels are not intended for use in residential heaters, small commercial boilers, or combustion engines.

1.1.1 Grades RFO4, RFO5L, RFO5H, and RFO6 are used lubricating oil blends, with or without distillate or residual fuel oil, or both, of increasing viscosity and are intended for use in industrial burners equipped to handle these types of recycled fuels.

NOTE 1—For information on the significance of the terminology and test methods used in this specification, see [Appendix X1](#).

1.2 This specification is for use in contracts for the purchase of fuel oils derived from used lubricating oil and for the guidance of consumers of such fuels. This specification does not address the frequency with which any particular test must be run.

1.3 Nothing in this specification shall preclude observance of national or local regulations, which can be more restrictive. In some jurisdictions, used oil is considered a hazardous waste and fuels from used oil are required to meet certain criteria before use as a fuel.

NOTE 2—For United States federal requirements imposed on used oil generators, transporters and transfer facilities, reprocessors, marketers, and burners, see [40 CFR 279](#).

NOTE 3—The generation and dissipation of static electricity can create problems in the handling of distillate burner fuel oils. For more information on the subject, see [Guide D 4865](#).

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard; non-SI units, when given, are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D 56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester
- D 93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester
- D 95 Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and Bituminous Materials by Distillation
- D 96 Test Methods for Water and Sediment in Crude Oil by Centrifuge Method (Field Procedure)³
- D 97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products
- D 129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (General Bomb Method)
- D 240 Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter
- D 396 Specification for Fuel Oils
- D 445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (the Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D 473 Test Method for Sediment in Crude Oils and Fuel Oils by the Extraction Method
- D 482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products
- D 1266 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (Lamp Method)
- D 1298 Practice for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D 1552 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (High-Temperature Method)
- D 1796 Test Method for Water and Sediment in Fuel Oils by the Centrifuge Method (Laboratory Procedure)
- D 2622 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D 2709 Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge
- D 2983 Test Method for Low-Temperature Viscosity of Lubricants Measured by Brookfield Viscometer
- D 3245 Test Method for Pumpability of Industrial Fuel Oils

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.P0 on Recycled Petroleum Products.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Withdrawn.

- D 3828 Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester
- D 4052 Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D 4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum, Petroleum Products, and Lubricants
- D 4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D 4294 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D 4377 Test Method for Water in Crude Oils Potentiometric Karl Fisher Titration
- D 4865 Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems
- D 4868 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D 4980 Test Method for Screening of pH in Waste
- D 5185 Test Method for Determination of Additive Elements, Wear Metals, and Contaminants in Used Lubricating Oils and Determination of Selected Elements in Base Oils by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)
- 2.2 *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards:*⁴
 - EPA 600/4-79-020 Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography
 - EPA SW-846 Method 9000 Determination of Water in Waste Materials by Karl Fisher Titration
 - EPA SW-846 Method 9001 Determination of Water in Waste Lubricants by Quantitative Calcium Hydride Reaction
 - EPA SW-846 Method 9056 Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography
- 2.3 *Federal Code of Regulations Standards:*⁴
 - 40 CFR 279 Standards for the Management of Used Oil

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *burner fuel oil, n*—any petroleum liquid suitable for the generation of heat by combustion in a furnace or firebox as a vapor or a spray, or a combination of both.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Different grades are characterized primarily by viscosity ranges.

3.1.2 *reclaiming, n*—the use of cleaning methods during recycling primarily to remove insoluble contaminants, thus making the oil suitable for further use. The methods may include settling, heating, dehydration, filtration, and centrifuging.

3.1.3 *recycling, n—in petroleum technology*, the acquisition of oil that has become unsuitable for its intended use, and processing it to regain useful materials.

3.1.4 *re-refining, n*—the use of refining processes during recycling to produce high quality base stocks for lubricants or

other petroleum products. Re-refining may include one or more of the following: distillation, hydrotreating, or treatments employing acid, caustic, solvent, clay, or other chemicals, or combination thereof.

3.1.5 *used oil, n—in petroleum product recycling*, oil whose characteristics have changed since being originally manufactured, and that is suitable for recycling.

3.1.6 *waste oil, n—in petroleum technology*, oil having characteristics making it unsuitable either for further use or for economic recycling.

3.2 For definitions of other terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology D 4175.

3.3 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.3.1 *reprocessing, n—in petroleum product recycling*, the preparation of used oil to be suitable as a fuel.

3.3.1.1 *Discussion*—Reprocessing includes procedures such as settling, filtration, blending, distillation, and chemical treatment.

3.3.2 *industrial burner, n*—a device that produces heat for industrial use through the combustion of liquid hydrocarbon fuels.

3.3.2.1 *Discussion*—Industrial burners are typically designed for one of two applications:

(a) *(a) industrial furnaces*—integral components of manufacturing processes that provide direct heating, for example, in aggregate, cement, lime, or phosphate kilns; coke ovens; or blast, smelting, melting, refining, or drying ovens.

(b) *(b) industrial boilers*—large indirect heating units that transfer thermal energy to water or other fluids or gases for use in heating in industrial settings and in manufacturing processes

4. Classification

4.1 There are four grades of industrial burner fuel containing recycled lubricating oils covered by this specification. These grades may or may not correlate directly with similar grades in other ASTM standards. The RFO designation identifies them as Reprocessed Fuel Oils. The usage descriptions of each grade may not describe all the uses, but are included as general information. The four grades are described as follows:

4.1.1 *Grade RFO4*—Primarily a blend of used lubricating oils and distillate or a reprocessed distillate product derived from used oil. It is intended for use in pressure atomizing industrial burners with no preheating. This grade of recycled oil fuel is used in many medium capacity industrial burners where ease of handling justifies the higher cost over the heavier used oil fuels.

4.1.2 *Grade RFO5L*—A straight (100 %) used lubricating oil blend or a used lubricating oil and distillate blend fuel of intermediate viscosity, heavier than Grade RFO4. It is intended for use both in pressure-atomizing industrial burners not requiring higher cost distillates and in burners equipped to atomize oils of higher viscosity with or without pre-heating. Its permissible viscosity range allows it to be pumped and atomized at relatively low-storage temperatures.

4.1.3 *Grade RFO5H*—A straight (100 %) used lubricating oil blend or a used lubricating oil and residual blend fuel, heavier than Grade RFO5L. It is intended for use in industrial burners equipped with devices that atomize oil of higher viscosity than domestic burners can handle. Preheating may be

⁴ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.